

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 17, 21 and 24 are pending in the present application. Claims 22, 23 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 17, 21 and 24 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 17 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Burns (U.S. Patent 5,850,773); and Claim 25 was objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

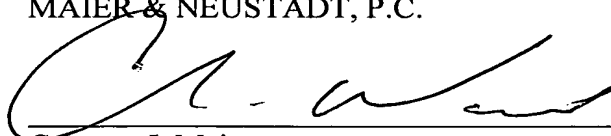
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the early indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 25. In light of that indication, independent Claim 17 has been amended to include allowable subject matter of Claim 25, subject matter of intervening Claim 22, and subject matter of intervening Claim 23 related to a plurality of speed reducing gears. It is noted that subject matter of intervening Claim 21 was not included in Claim 17 as Applicants believe allowable subject matter of Claim 25 (i.e. transmitting said drive force between said drive force transmission device and said motor through one of said plurality of speed reducing gears ... facing of a part of said outer periphery of said one of said plurality of speed reducing gears having no gear teeth being provided to said gear teeth provided on said outer periphery of said another one of said plurality of speed reducing gears) is neither taught nor suggested in Burns. Further, Claims 17, 21 and 24 have been amended for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 17, and the claims depending therefrom, should be allowed.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

GJM/CDW/GS:mda
I:\ATTY\GS\0S\0041\0619\AME 9_FAXED.DOC

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367